

Dear Varndean families

Coronavirus update 17th December

Remote learning on the 18th December

Please find the activities for Friday's day of remote learning [here](#). The activities should be self explanatory but if your child is stuck they can email their teacher or message them via the google classroom. This document has also been emailed to your child.

If your child is unwell tomorrow and unable to complete their school work please contact the school (school@varndean.co.uk) and report the absence so we can update our register.

For any safeguarding concerns Mrs Anstiss will be available on 07984 221254. Please note this number will only be picked up on Friday 18th December please see the out of hours number at the end of this letter for all other safeguarding concerns.

Positive Covid cases during the holidays

Further to last week's update I am writing to inform you of the arrangements for contact tracing should there be a positive case in the school community during the holidays when the school is closed. I hope the table below makes the actions you may need to take clear.

Detail of positive case including the date	Contacting the school	Action you and/or your child need to take	Notes
Someone in the family or household (other than the Varndean student) tests positive for COVID 19 at any time during the holidays	No. There is no need to contact the school.	Self isolate for 10 days from the last point of contact as per the Government guidance.	Students must complete the self isolation period before returning to school in the New Year. Let the school know on the 4th January using the absence line as normal if the self isolation will mean an absence at the start of the term.
A Varndean student develops symptoms	Yes. You must contact the school as	Your child and the whole household will	The school will contact you back



<p>before the 21st December and tests positive for COVID 19 between the 17th Dec and 23rd Dec</p>	<p>soon as you have confirmation of the test results. Please use the special email address covid@varndean.co.uk This email account will be monitored each morning.</p>	<p>need to self isolate for 10 days from the first day of symptoms as per the Government guidance.</p>	<p>within 24 hours to begin contact tracing. The school will then alert all known contacts via email to self isolate for 10 days as per the guidance. The whole school community will also be informed that there is a positive case. Families with questions can contact the school for clarification using the COVID email address covid@varndean.co.uk</p>
<p>A Varndean student develops symptoms after the 20th of December and tests positive for COVID 19 between 24th Dec and 3rd January.</p>	<p>No. There is no need to tell the school about this at the time but please tell us on your child's return to school. NHS test and trace will carry out the contact tracing please pass information to them as requested.</p>	<p>Your child and the whole household will need to self isolate for 10 days from the first day of symptoms as per the Government guidance.</p>	<p>Students must complete the self isolation period before returning to school in the New Year. Please let the school know on the 4th January, using the absence line as normal, if the self isolation will mean an absence at the start of the term.</p>

The start of the term and COVID protective measures in January

It is our intention after the Christmas break to return to the COVID protective measures we had in place from September to November. That is to say that students and staff need not wear their face coverings full time but will continue to wear them in the corridors and

communal areas of the school and on the bus to and from school. Some students and staff will continue to wear them full time for their own peace of mind and that is to be respected.

The only change we wish to make to our approach is to adjust the one way system so that on the ground floor of the Ditchling building students will now travel anti-clockwise not clockwise. This should make the one way system more efficient. Tutors will remind students of this on our return in January and signage will be refreshed over the break.

There are no other planned changes but I would want to emphasise the importance of complying with the measures in place like the staggered start times, year group zones at break and lunch and regular hand washing / sanitising. With cases rising in much of the South East and a Christmas break that could see much mixing we will all need to act and be vigilant with the measures we have in place if we are to reduce the risk of school based transmission. Please can I call on you to remind your child / children of the role they play in keeping everyone safe.

On our return we will keep a close eye on the local case data and transmission rates and may write to you in the first week of January adding additional measures to our approach if that is deemed necessary.

As I write there is speculation that the Government will be making an announcement about arrangements for the start of term in January. We will be watching carefully for this detail and if this affects any of the plans described above then we will be sure to let you know as soon as possible.

Well being over the holidays

It has been a stressful year and Christmas can sometimes bring its own difficulties. With this in mind I would like to pass on contact details for sources of support for students/families over the holidays. Please see the links here for more information.

[Schools Wellbeing Service Consultation Line - Christmas.pdf](#)

[School nurse message to students](#)

Varndean Eye

Please see our latest edition of the Varndean Eye [here](#). The Varndean Eye celebrates our school community successes and takes a look back over the last term.

Thank you for your continued support and I wish you and your family a peaceful and restful holiday.



Warm regards

William Deighan

William Deighan
Headteacher

Other than the Covid email above (open until 23rd Dec), school emails will not be checked regularly to give staff the opportunity to rest before the new term.

Safeguarding and school base contacts for term time -

Lennox

Shelley Baker - shelleybaker@varndean.co.uk

Emma Sutton - emmasutton@varndean.co.uk

Angelou

Sam Whiteman - samwhiteman@varndean.co.uk

Fiona Hall - fionahall@varndean.co.uk

Maria Rose - mariarose@varndean.co.uk

Russell

Abi Holder - abigailholder@varndean.co.uk

Lorina Ventura - lorinaventura@varndean.co.uk

Maria Rose - mariarose@varndean.co.uk

Turing

Georgina Maltby - georginamaltby@varndean.co.uk

Donna Mills - donnamills@varndean.co.uk

Rachel Christy - rachelchristy@varndean.co.uk

Ellis

Sandra Knights - sandraknights@varndean.co.uk

Caroline Ball - carolineball@varndean.co.uk

Donna Mills - donnamills@varndean.co.uk

Our safeguarding team will be contactable **during school hours** if you would like advice on an issue or wish to report a concern.

safeguarding@varndean.co.uk



VARNDEAN
SCHOOL

CHALLENGE AND PRIDE

Vicky Anstiss (Designated Safeguarding Lead) - vickyanstiss@varndean.co.uk

Kerry Tester - (Safeguarding Officer) - kerrytester@varndean.co.uk

To access safeguarding advice (**outside school hours**) please contact Front Door for Families

Phone: 01273 290400 9am to 5pm Monday to Thursday, 9am to 4.30pm on Fridays

Out-of-hours: 01273 335905 (Emergency Duty Service)